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MINE DISASTER AT SZUHAKALLO, HUNGARY;
AWARDS FOR RESCUE OPERATIONS

17 TRAPPED MINERS RESCUED -- Budapest, Szabad Nap, 23 Dec 52

Part of the Szuhakallo mine, which is operating under the jurisdiction of the Borsodmegyei Szenbanyaszati Troszt (Borsod Megye Coal Mining Trust), was flooded in the early morning hours of 16 December 1952. The majority of the miners escaped, but 17 workers were trapped underground.

Rescue work was started immediately. The best drilling masters and outstanding mining specialists and Stakhanovites, together with certain units of the State Security Authority, were promptly sent to Szuhakallo to take part in the rescue operations.

On 18 December, the rescuers established contact with the miners underground who, led by Lajos Vrabik, pitman, organizing secretary of the Szuhakallo party organization, assisted the rescuers.

In the course of the rescue, Arpad Loy, Kossuth Prize winning foreman of Alberttelep; the Bekes brigade of MASZOLAJ (Magyar Szovjet Olajipari Reszvenytarsasag, Hungarian Soviet Oil Industry Corporation); Jozsef Iorubszki, party secretary; Durog and Tokod miners; and several officers and soldiers of the army and the State Security Authority distinguished themselves.

The rescue work was successful. In the early afternoon of 22 December, the 17 trapped miners, who had been underground for 6 1/2 days, were rescued. All are in good health.

AWARD DECORATIONS, CASH -- Budapest, Magyar Kozlony, 18 Jan 53

The Hungarian Presidential Council has made the following awards in recognition of disciplined or exemplary conduct at the Szuhakallo mine disaster (place of residence or name of employer is in parentheses):

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To Miners Who Were Trapped Underground

[Note that this article lists 18 miners.]

Gold Order of Merit of Hungarian Labor with cash award of 5,000 forints posthumously to Kalman Ham (Szuhakallo), cutter, who lost his life during the rescue work.

Silver Order of Merit of Hungarian Labor with cash award of 3,000 forints to Lajos Vrabik (Szuhakallo), pitman.

Bronze Order of Merit of Hungarian Labor with cash award of 1,500 forints to: Magda Kresik (Szuhakallo), Zsuzsanna Szucs (Szuhakallo), and Bertalan Bulogh (Szuhakallo), machine operators; Janos Boros (Szuhakallo), Lajos Lakatos (Szuhakallo), Laszlo Barnoczky (Szuhakallo), Laszlo Banoczki (Sajokaza), Janos Bakos, Sr (Sajokaza), and Janos Bakos, Jr (Sajokaza), cutters; and Kalman Bone (Szuhakallo), foreman.

Medal of Hungarian Labor to: Jozsef Ondo (Szuhakallo), Jozsef Golbert (Sajokaza), Andras Lesko (Sajokaza), and Jozsef Horvath (Szuhakallo), cutters; Ferenc Szaniszló (Szuhakallo), mine trucker; and Jozsef Dombi (Sajokaza), blasting master.

To Rescue Workers

Gold Medal of Merit of the Hungarian People's Republic to: Arpad Loy (Alberttelep), Kossuth Prize winning front master; Kalman Simon (Ministry of Mining and Power), Laszlo Menyhert (Ministry of Mining and Power), and Andras Solymos (Tatabanya), chief engineers; Jozsef Szilard (Ministry of Mining and Power), section chief; Istvan Rajko (Alberttelep), electrician; Gyula Faigel (Alberttelep), foreman; Erno Szilagyi (Ormospuszta), commander of rescue work; Dr Ferenc Szoboszlai (Ormospuszta), mine physician; Istvan Farkas (Tokod), blasting master; Istvan Burkus (Ormospuszta), Jozsef Sparer (Tatabanya), and Istvan Simonek (Dorog), cutters; and Janos Arvai (MASZOLAJ) and Sarolta Simao (MASZOLAJ), drilling masters.

Medal of Merit of Hungarian Labor to: Ferenc Biro and Ferenc Zantek, divers, both of Hidepitesi Vallalat (Bridge Building Enterprise).

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